

## Young People's Societies

### PATRIOTISM THAT COUNTS.

Topic for Sunday, July 4: Patriotism that counts. Nehemiah 4: 6, 12-18.

#### DAILY READINGS.

Monday: Passion for home. Psalm 137: 1-6.  
Tuesday: A patriot's faith. Isaiah 7: 1-9.  
Wednesday: A patriot's tears. Lamentations 1: 1-12.  
Thursday: A patriot's struggle. Judge 7: 15-23.  
Friday: Higher patriotism. Acts 10: 28, 34, 35.  
Saturday: The abiding country. Hebrews 11: 10, 13-16.

The country's natal day coming on this Sunday, should turn our thoughts to what God's Word says as to government and law.

"The powers that be are ordained of God." The Bible's moral code is the only one known in all the literature of ethics that puts government on so high a plane.

"Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake." The highest ground upon which men can put obedient citizenship is experience and the common weal.

God puts secular obedience upon conscience. He calls upon all citizens to observe their country's laws and seek its welfare not for the good that will come, but from a high sense of duty.

No code of morals ever devised for men has reached as lofty a conception as this. Therefore it is that Christian people, in being true to God's Word, always make the best and most patriotic citizens.

True patriotism then has in it the element of obedience to God as well as to man, and recognizes responsibility to God for its appreciation and use of the rights and privileges and protection of the State.

The true patriot will make his vote count whenever it is needed to right a wrong or put the right into power and thrust out the wrong. Some one has called the ballot the citizen's sacrament. The figure is a bad one, but the idea suggesting it is good.

What right have we either to pray for or expect good government if we do not use the power put into our hands by the Great Ruler to place men in office, who will be after his heart? Will he even acquit us from responsibility if our vote helps any man to position whom he would condemn?

There are enough Christian voters in nearly every community to determine the results in every election which involves a moral issue. But Christian citizens fold their hands and stand off, and the evil and corrupt are allowed to have their own way. Will God approve of this? Can we approve it ourselves?

The prevalence of corruption and graft is the fault of the supineness of those who have the power to control. Shall they complain when it is their own neglect that develops the evil? Corruption in office is but the expression of corruption on the part of those who put in office. The upright are too idle and indifferent. They are not as willing to work as their opponents.

Liberty is bought and held only at the price of eternal vigilance. The worst menace that we can have to our free country and free institutions is to give over our powers and rule to such interests as the gamblers, speculators, liquor men, and grafters, who will use office for themselves and their own gain and not for the country's good.

### THE INFIDELITY THAT HURTS.

The infidelity and sin of the outside world is not hurting the Church, but the infidelity and sin on the inside of the Church is hurting it. The man who professes to believe in Christ and at the same time lives a life contrary to the fundamental principles enunciated by Christ does infinitely more harm than a blatant infidel.—Baptist Chronicle.

"The Arena," a well-known magazine started in the interest of liberalism, has gone into bankruptcy. The company was located at Trenton, New Jersey. While there is much liberal sentiment in this country, there are comparatively few willing to wage war upon the acknowledged faith of this Christian nation.—Christian Instructor.

## Prayer Meeting

Topic, Home and Foreign Missions—Week Beginning, June 27.

Mission work is being brought near to the Church each year. Facilities for reaching remote parts of the earth are ever increasing and lands formerly inaccessible, are now the resort of tourists and explorers. But in addition to facilities for travel and the increased friendliness between races and nations that were formerly entirely estranged by race prejudice, mutual suspicion and hatred, the floods of immigration to American shores, constitute a call which is steadily increasing in emphasis and urgency.

Certain facts and figures bearing on this department of the Church's responsibility are found in the "Missionary Review of the World." We quote some of these by way of emphasizing the magnitude of the work to which we are summoned by the presence of masses of foreign people on American soil.

"The cities are largely the gathering places of foreign immigrants. Immigration is irregular, varying according to the conditions here and abroad, the expulsive forces at work in other countries and the attractions that draw to our shores. But on the whole immigration is on the increase as shown in successive decades of years. From 1820 to 1830, it reached only about 150,000. In the next decade, it rose fourfold to about 600,000; in the next, threefold more, to about 1,800,000, or twelve times what it was from 1820 to 1830; in the next, it went from 1,800,000 to 25,000,000; and from 1870 to 1880, to nearly three million. Thus the number of immigrants coming to our shores from 1870 to 1880 was twenty times what it was from 1820 to 1830, fifty years before.

"From 1890 to 1900, about 3,850,000 immigrants landed on our shores; from 1900 to 1907, over 10,000,000, the total from 1820 to 1907 exceeding 21,000,000, a number equal to nearly one-fourth of the entire present population!

"The peril lies, as has been said, in the lack of assimilation. These strangers import with them foreign notions, prejudices, customs, habits, favorable to a heterogeneous, instead of a homogeneous, people. Freedom relaxes into license and licentiousness, till free speech, free thought, free press, free love, run riot; with no common training and culture, common birth, common faith or common church life to fuse these masses into unity.

"These immigrants naturally drift toward the cities, where they can most easily find work and those with whom they can associate and communicate in their own tongue. Hence the cities draw the foreign population, and in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Boston, New York, Chicago, etc., from six to nine out of every ten inhabitants are of foreign birth or parentage.

"The crowding—the almost crushing—of the poorer and working classes in our cities means peril to every interest of body and soul."

### INTERNATIONAL GRADED LESSONS.

The 1908 convention of the International Sunday School Association authorized the International Lesson Committee "to continue the preparation of a thoroughly graded course of lessons, which may be used by any Sunday school which desires it, whether in whole or in part." In accordance with this authorization a sub-committee on graded lessons was appointed. This sub-committee hopes to be able to issue to the publishers immediately after the holidays the first year's lessons of the beginners', primary and junior courses, for the use of the lesson writers and editors who prepare the lesson helps and quarterlies. It is hoped that the work may be ready for the use of Sunday schools by October 1, 1909.

Ira M. Price,

Secretary International Lesson Committee.

### ADULT BIBLE CLASSES.

The International Sunday School Association reports twenty-nine denominations represented in its ranks. During the third quarter ending September 25, 365 certificates of recognition were issued to adult Bible classes, while the total number issued to date is 2,152. In the Presbyterian classes receiving international certificates of recognition to September 25, there were: U. S. A. 7,374, South 1,070, Canada 1,767, United 663, Associate Reformed 19, Reformed 994. The total enrollment is 70,892.